

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 13:1-9.**
- B. "The Way to a Man's Heart is Through His Ears."
- C. First in a series of 6 sermons on the parables.

## I. THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. The seed has life in itself. To grow a living plant one must begin with "living seed."
- B. The word of God produces fruit, and in this fruit the seed to produce even more fruit.
- C. Some different kinds of spiritual fruit are:
  - 1. **Winning souls to X** (Rom. 1:13).  
And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I might obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.
  - 2. **Practical holiness** (Rom. 6:22).  
But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.
  - 3. **Sharing material things** (Rom. 15:27).  
Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.
  - 4. **Christian character** (Gal. 5:22-23).  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
  - 5. **Good works** (Col. 1:10).  
so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
  - 6. **Praise** (Heb. 13:15).  
Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.
- D. There is but one seed (Lk. 8:11), and it will produce but one crop. No one plants corn and expects to raise beans. No one raises canaries in the hopes of later producing eagles.
- E. The only thing that will grow from the word of God is a Xian. May I say, not a "church of X-Xian" or "a Catholic-Xian" or a "denominational-Xian" but just a Xian.
- F. The word of God does not produce Moslems, Buddhists, or Hindus. The implanted word produces Xians, and only Xians.

## II. THE SOWER IS THE ONE WHO SHARES THE WORD.

- A. No matter whether we do it in song, by letter, by phone, etc., when we communicate the word of God to others, we are sowing seed.
- B. The scribes and Pharisees had so encrusted the seed of the Word with their traditions that Jesus had to break these traditions to recover the lost seed. Then, He had to break the husk of the seed (the mere letter of the Word) to reveal the living kernel within.
- C. Things to remember about sowing the seed:
  - 1. Sow only one kind of seed (Lev. 19:19).  
'You are to keep My statutes. You shall not breed together two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed,
  - 2. A sower must have a personal concern (Psa. 126:5,6).  
Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.
  - 3. A principle of partnership must operate for there to be a harvest (1Cor. 3:6).  
I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

4. Patience is needed to be a good sower of the seed (Jas. 5:7).  
Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
5. Unfortunately some sow to the flesh and some sow discord (Gal. 6:7,8; Prov. 6:19).  
(Gal 6:7-8) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.  
(Prov 6:19) A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

### III. THE SOIL REPRESENTS THE HUMAN HEART.

- A. The soil has great potential for good or bad. (Left by itself the heart will run riot with sin.)
- B. The real emphasis of this parable is on the soils.
- C. Four kinds of soils (hearts):
  1. The hard heart (the problem is with the soil not the seed).
  2. The shallow heart (the emotional hearer, persecution suffered).
  3. The crowded heart (the weeds of worry, the world, and problems).
  4. The fruitful heart (it receives, understands, and holds fast).
- D. Example of the first three hearts is found in Jn. 4:9-25.  
The Samaritan woman's heart is seen in three distinct ways (Jn. 4:9, 15, 25).  
(Jn 4:9) The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)  
(Jn 4:15) The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw."  
(Jn 4:25) The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."
- E. Let us then be careful about our hearing (Mk. 4:24; Lk. 8:18).  
(Mk. 4:24) And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it shall be measured to you; and more shall be given you besides."  
(Lk 8:18) "Therefore take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."
- F. May we be good hearers (Rom. 10:17), not dull hearers (Heb. 5:11-14).

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The parable of the soils was spoke by our Lord to reveal the hearts of men.
- B. Our window to see God shows a loving Father who is trying to get into our lives and produce a harvest of righteousness through His word.
- C. Our mirror to see ourselves shows that we might have a heart that needs changing. Is your heart hard, shallow, or full of weeds?
- D. If your heart is good, it is receptive to the Word. Obey X this day.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.